



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

WRIGHT, T., editor. *Sweated labour and the Trade Boards Act. Catholic studies in social reform.* (London: P. S. King. 1911. 6d.)

————— *Risks in modern industry.* (Philadelphia: American Academy of Political and Social Science. 1911. Pp. 317.)

————— *Uniform child labor laws. Proceedings of the seventh annual conference of the National Child Labor Committee.* (Philadelphia: American Academy of Political and Social Science. 1911. Pp. v, 224.)

————— *Inspection in Europe. First comparative report on the administration of labour laws.* (London: P. S. King. 1911. 4s.)

————— *Report of the Sixth General Meeting of the Committee of the International Association for Labour Legislation, held at Lugano, September 26-28, 1910.* London: P. S. King. 1911. Pp. 174. 4s.)

————— *Premier rapport comparatif sur l'application des lois ouvrières. L'inspection du travail en Europe.* (Paris: Berger-Levrault. 1911. 5 fr.)

————— *Compte rendu de la conférence internationale du chômage, tenue à Paris, du 18 au 21 Septembre 1910.* Three volumes. (Paris: Rivière et Cie. 18 fr.)

————— *Die Arbeitslosigkeit ihre statistische Erfassung und ihre Bekämpfung. Mit besonderer Berücksichtigung Nürnberger Verhältnisse.* (Nuremberg: U. S. Sebald. 1911. 1 m.)

Money, Prices, Credit and Banking

Banques d'Emission et Trésors Public. By RAPHAEL GEORGES-LEVY. (Paris: Hachette et Cie. 1911. Pp. xxiv, 628. 7.50 fr.)

With discussions going on all over the world in regard to changes in banking legislation, the work of M. Lévy is eminently apropos and is likely to attract attention among experts. In bringing together a large mass of data regarding banks of issue, he has laid stress on a phase of the subject which has heretofore been comparatively little discussed,—the relations between the banks and the government. So completely are details subordinated to this subject that it affords the framework for the arrangement of the book, and this arrangement itself is not without significance to the American reader. Part I, which is much the larger part, relates to countries where the paper currency consists in whole or in part of bank-notes; Part II, deals with government paper (*billets d'Etat*). Under Part I, the subheads cover, first, those countries which grant the privilege of note issue to a single institution; second, the countries which have conceded the privilege of issue

to a limited number of institutions; and third, "countries which accord the right of issue to an unlimited number of banks, required to observe the provisions of uniform legislation."

In the first subdivision, France naturally leads, followed by the other principal European countries. In the second class are ranked Germany and Italy, where banks of issue other than the central bank are merely survivals, and Mexico, China, Ecuador and Bolivia. In the third class the United States stands unique and alone. Under the classification of states where the government controls the output of paper currency, Russia, Finland, Bulgaria, Sweden and Uruguay are classified together under the head of countries where the issuing bank is owned by the state. In the list of countries where bills are issued directly by the public treasury, the United States does not stand alone, as in the case of free banking, but has the company of British India, Canada, Siam, the Argentine Republic, Chile, Brazil, and Colombia. It is well known that the government issues of British India and Canada form but a small part of the total circulation and come very near to being coin certificates. Comparison of the relative merits of the American system with that of the other four countries mentioned, an American would probably prefer to leave to M. Lévy rather than to undertake for himself.

The essential point to which the work is addressed is the broader relations between the state and the banks, growing out of advances by the banks to the treasury and interference with the liquid assets of the banks to meet treasury needs. The question of the steadily growing share which the state is appropriating to itself from the earnings of the banks is not brought into high relief, although the details are fully set forth. M. Lévy presents the facts of banking development forcibly, clearly and accurately. His work is not overweighted with argument, but depends rather upon the force of example disclosed by banking history during the past generation. His position is strictly in accordance with the classical school and perhaps occasionally makes insufficient allowances for necessary departures from sound principles to meet actual contingencies. He reaches the conclusion of other sound writers, that public credit should be kept distinct from banking credit, and quotes the classic utterance of Thiers after the Franco-Prussian war—"The bank saved us because it was not a bank of state."

The work of M. Lévy, other systematic works on banks of is-

sue, and the recent investigations of the National Monetary Commission bring out the fact that while the modern state is showing an increased respect for the fundamental principle of non-interference with the commercial side of banking, it is insisting more and more firmly that it shall receive full compensation for the franchises which it grants to the banks and that the temptation shall be removed to sacrifice the general interests of the market to the profit of shareholders. These ends are sought by a system of division of the profits of the bank when they exceed a certain point, which has now been applied upon a large scale in France, Germany, Belgium, Austria-Hungary, Italy, the Balkan States and many others. In Belgium the provision that the bank shall pay over to the treasury all profits derived from a rate of discount exceeding $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, has perhaps gone too far in discouraging the advance of the discount rate to protect the metallic reserve. At the time that the provision was adopted, however, there was a plethora of capital seeking investment and it was not anticipated apparently that rates for money would again rise to a normal rate of four or five per cent. In providing for a division of profits between the shareholders of the bank and the treasury after the dividend to shareholders reaches 4 per cent per annum, the leading European bank charters set a standard which has been followed in the plan of Senator Aldrich for this country presented to the National Monetary Commission.

The work of M. Lévy is an interesting and important contribution to the discussion of banking problems and has already been cordially welcomed by European reviewers.

CHARLES A. CONANT.

NEW BOOKS.

BABELON, E. *Traité des monnaies grecques et romaines. 1re partie, théorie et doctrine.* (Paris: E. Leroux. 50 fr.)

BOIES, W. J. *The Aldrich currency reform system analyzed, how the proposed system would work in practice.* (New York: Fourth National Bank. 1911. Pp. 24.)

BREIT, J. *Bankgesetz. Systematisch erläutert.* (Berlin: R. V. Decker. 1911. Pp. xiv, 426. 12 m.)

BUDDE, B. *Die Geschichte der Immobilienverkehrsbank und ihre Lehren.* (Berlin: Franz Vahlen. 1911. Pp. 94.)

The detailed history of a German real estate company which came to grief through speculation and carried down with it the Pommerische Hypotheken-Aktien-Bank and other institutions. Originally